

**B. Remarks:**

Submitted herewith is a new Declaration signed by only two of the inventors namely Allan Steinbock and Robert Steinbock. Signatures by the remaining three inventors have not been received. These inventors reside in Norway and Switzerland and signed copies will be immediately submitted upon receipt from the inventors. In the interim, there are also submitted herewith unsigned copies of the Declarations to inform the Office of the inventors' residences, mailing addresses and citizenship.

The election of the species 1, Claims 14, 16-17, and 20-21 is hereby affirmed. Claim 14 was held generic to all species. Copies of the two foreign patents listed in the information disclosure statement are enclosed.

Claims 14, 17 and 20 have been carefully amended to overcome the objections to these claims because of informalities identified in the claimed objections and to better distinguish applicants' invention from the cited prior art. Amended claim 14 is believed generic. Claim 16 has been cancelled because the subject matter is now included in parent claim 14. Claims 15, 18 and 19 stand withdrawn. New claims 22-24 recite features of the elected species which serve to further distinguish the patentable subject matter of the prior art.

Turning now to the merits of claim 14, new claim 14 recites:

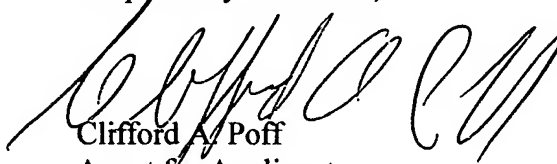
“ . . . a fixed part having an internal cavity accessible from at least one threaded aperture to install and displace a friction element in said internal cavity into frictional contact with a moveable part in a confronting relation to said at least one threaded aperture . . . ”

The Reimert reference does not teach or suggest a threaded aperture answering to the above recitation and the Tischler reference fails to disclose or suggest

the recited "friction element" in the recited confronting relation. The remaining language of amended claim 14 is respectfully submitted to further identify the believed patentable relations between these parts. Additionally, it is believed the combination of Reimert and Tischler is improper when applied to amended claim 14 since amended claim 14 is not addressed to securement to a high pressure fluid system. Attention is respectfully directed to applicants' specification at page 1 beginning at line 16 through page 2, line 9. The combination of references seem to solve a problem not recognized by the reference namely the shortcomings of a single bolted joint. Claims 17, 20, and 21 specifically identified the moveable part as a pipe member and the interlocking construction formed by the annular ring section. New claims 22-24 bring out the feature of a wall thickness relationship to sustain the portion encountered in sub-sea environment for the offshore petrochemical industry.

For the foregoing reasons it is believed this action is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

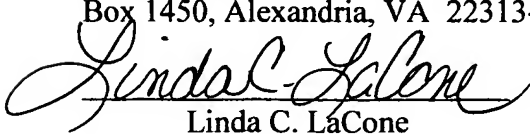
Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 5, 2008



Linda C. LaCone

Date: March 5, 2008